



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 9 March 2006

EDPS generally satisfied with security in EURODAC central unit

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) has recently completed his first inspection of the EURODAC central unit. An inspection report has now been sent to Commission, Parliament and Council, and to data protection authorities in the Member States. The report covers the first stage of a comprehensive inspection, which will be followed by an in-depth security audit by mid 2006. The EDPS expresses general satisfaction with the security level, although a number of concrete recommendations are given.

Peter Hustinx, EDPS, says: "*The EURODAC system is a key feature in the procedure for everyone seeking asylum in the EU and whose fingerprints are taken. Good data protection is imperative for safeguarding their identities as well as for the functioning of the system. Supervision of the central unit is an important task for me, and I intend to cooperate closely with colleagues in the Member States to ensure an effective supervision of the EURODAC system*".

The EURODAC system with fingerprints of applicants for asylum is used in all Member States to support the asylum procedure. The central unit is operated by the European Commission. The first phase of the EDPS inspection focused on a number of security aspects of the central unit, including risks and incidents management, security of communications, physical access control, etc.

The EDPS supervises the central unit of EURODAC since January 2004, while national data protection authorities supervise the use of EURODAC in the Member States. The EDPS has hosted a coordination meeting with the national authorities to discuss a common approach to the supervision of EURODAC. The EDPS intends to share his findings during the next meeting in June in order to enhance collaboration with the national level.

Because of the sensitivity of some information in the report, it is not publicly available

For more information, please contact the EDPS Press Service at: +32 2 283 19 00

EDPS - the European guardian of personal data protection

www.edps.eu.int